

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence appeared on FoxNews' Hannity last night to discuss the budget debate. Below is a transcript of Pence's remarks:

On Speaker Boehner Standing Firm

"Let me be clear: if liberals in the Senate and if this administration want to force a government shutdown instead of accepting 2 percent in cuts in this year's budget, then you know, I say, 'shut it down.' You've been saying over the last month, I've been saying it is time to pick a fight. I'm here to tell you, Speaker Boehner and House Republicans are picking a fight. The negotiations are going on right now. Speaker John Boehner is driving a hard bargain. Americans who are concerned with runaway federal spending by both parties in recent years ought to be proud of this Speaker, and ought to be standing with House Republicans, come what may in the next 24 hours."

On Supporting a Compromise

"Well I think H.R. 1 was a compromise, Sean. We made a pledge to the American people we would lower spending levels back to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels in our Pledge to America. The American people overwhelmingly voted for a Republican Majority in Congress. I think it is important we keep our word. That's precisely what Republicans are dug in and fighting to do as we speak. Sixty-one billion dollars against a \$1.65 trillion deficit is nothing more than a down payment. It might just be earnest money on restoring fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C. I know Republicans are determined to make that fight. We are in that fight. As I said, Speaker John Boehner is driving a hard bargain and I think taxpayers are going to be the winners when it is over."

On the Need for Spending Cuts

"It gets back to what you are speculating about at the top of this segment. It looks like Democrats are willing to shut down the government to prevent passage of a 2 percent cut in the federal budget. It looks like Democrats are prepared to shut down the government so they can continue to borrow money from China to underwrite abortion providers in this country. I don't know what the motivations are. But, I think the American people are recognizing more and more as time goes on, that nobody in the Republican Majority in Congress wants to shut down the government. But we're not going to lose this moment where we can make a down payment on restoring fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C."

On the Need to Fund the Military

"It is not going to be pretty but it is not going to affect Social Security benefits. If the liberals in the Senate and the president will sign the bill that we passed in the House today [a government shutdown] won't affect our troops at all. The troops come first. Today Republicans brought to the floor of the Congress a bill that fully funds the Department of Defense through the end of this fiscal year. We embraced a couple more budget cuts, sent it over to the Senate. Immediately it was dismissed by Harry Reid.

"I'm still trying to absorb this, Sean: The Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States threatened to veto a bill that would fund our troops during a time of war. I just think that is unconscionable. But we can take care of our troops. We can take care of our seniors. It is going to work an inconvenience and a hardship on hundreds of thousands of federal employees and the administration of programs, but this fight is that important. I've said that many times. Sometimes things don't change in Washington, D.C. unless they have to. I think the fight that's going on right now, even if we get the whole \$61 billion, if we defund ObamaCare and defund Planned Parenthood, it's just going to be a down payment on changing the direction of the national government. The important early victory that will set the stage for victories on the debt ceiling, victories on passing the Paul Ryan budget, and victories as we attempt to really change the fiscal destiny of this country."

On Why Cutting Spending in the CR Matters

"I think sometimes small steps boldly taken can change history. You and I talked about this on the radio the other day. You don't compare military battles with political debates, but the principle is the same. You look at 1776, George Washington's army has run all the way across New Jersey. But on Christmas day, he said, 'You know what? We've got to win one small battle against these guys.' And so he crosses the Delaware, he beats these British mercenaries, and that re-lights and re-kindles the spirit of independence all across the colonies. I think this little battle does have implications for the major battles over the budget, over the debt ceiling, over all the dramatic reforms of federal programs that are being contemplated today and are necessary to restore fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C. This battle matters, and I think that's why Speaker John Boehner is fighting so hard for taxpayers."

The Effectiveness of the Demagoguery of Democrats

"Let me put a fine point on it: this ain't 1995. The American people, thanks to people like you on television, on the radio, thanks to the Internet, thanks to Twitter and Facebook, the American people are better informed, better able to break through the clutter and the demagoguery than ever before. I was at a banquet in my hometown here in Indiana tonight, and the unanimous opinion in that room, what I hear all over Indiana and all over the country is: 'This country is going broke!' And this new Republican majority was sent to Washington, D.C. to end the borrowing and the spending and the bailouts by both political parties. What House Republicans are doing in this fight, what we're digging in and standing for, is a fundamental change in direction in the fiscal destiny of this country. And that's a fight worth making."